



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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PRESS RELEASE

Patterson Purples Up for Military Kids

VLB website goes purple April 13 in support of Texas Operation: Military Kids

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AUSTIN — The website more than 1.7 million veterans living in Texas rely on for information about their benefits - www.texasveterans.com - will go purple Friday, April 13 in a show of support for Texas Operation Military Kids.

"The VLB will Purple Up! For Military Kids and we hope you will join us," said Jerry Patterson, chairman of the Texas Veterans Land Board. "Children whose parents serve our nation deserve our support."

The second annual Purple Up! For Military Kids campaign urges everyone to wear purple on Friday, April 13, as a visible show of support. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.

Operation: Military Kids is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. Regardless of whether Families are experiencing deployment for the first time, the second time or another in a series of multiple deployments, OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being. Texas Operation: Military Kids is part of a 4-H Youth Development program of Texas AgriLife Extension.

Texasveterans.com purpling up on April 13 will help spread the message to thousands of veterans and those who care about them. Texas is one of only five states to offer a veterans program, and VLB benefits are widely seen as the best in the nation.

The Texas tradition of taking care of veterans dates back to the Republic, when those who signed on to fight for independence from Mexico were rewarded with generous tracts of land. The VLB was created in 1946 after Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing \$25 million in bonds to help World War II veterans buy land.

Since then, the land and home loan programs have funded more than \$9 billion in loans and become popular options for veterans looking to buy the American Dream.

The VLB has also built eight Texas State Veterans Homes, where veterans and their spouses enjoy peace of mind in their golden years. The homes, in Amarillo, Big Spring, Bonham, El Paso, Floresville, McAllen, Temple and Tyler, filled a need by offering comprehensive rehabilitation programs, special diets, recreational activities, social services, libraries, and a certified, secured Alzheimer's unit in each home.

In addition, the VLB has built four Texas State Veterans Cemeteries - in Abilene, Corpus Christi, Killeen and Mission. Texas veterans are entitled to free burial with full military honors at each of these magnificent facilities.

For more information on VLB benefits, visit www.texasveterans.com .

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